(d) if so, the details thereof and the proposals of various formulae considered by the Central Government and State Governments so far; and

(e) whether now it has been decided that Planning Commission would work out a unanimous formula in this regard and if so, by when this formula would be finalized?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (e) The first meeting of the 'National Ganga River Basin Authority' (NGRBA) held on 5th October 2009 resolved that by the year 2020, it will be ensured that no untreated municipal sewage or industrial effluent flows into Ganga. Currently, sewage treatment capacity of 1025 million litres per day (mild) is available against about 3000 mild being generated in the towns along Ganga. An estimated investment of Rs.15,000 crore over the next 10 years will be required to create the necessary treatment and sewerage infrastructure.

Under the ongoing centrally sponsored scheme of National River Conservation Plan, Centre and States share the capital costs in the ratio of 70:30 respectively, it was decided in the aforesaid meeting of NGRBA that funds required for 'Mission Clean Ganga' will be shared suitably between Centre and States after consultation with the States, Ministry of Finance and the Planning Commission.

Conservation of lakes

3439. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of existing lakes in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that due to lack of conservation, these lakes have dried up in the recent past; and

(c) the steps Government are taking to conserve these lakes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) The Ministry is implementing the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National Lake Conservation Plan (NLCP) for conservation and management of polluted and degraded lakes in urban and semi-urban areas of the country. Under the Scheme, the Ministry has so far, sanctioned projects for conservation of 58 lakes identified by the states, at a cost of Rs. 883.94 crore.

The proposals for new lakes are considered for sanction subject to their admissibility as per NLCP guidelines, pollution status, prioritization and availability of funds under the Plan. This Ministry has not received any report from the States regarding drying of lakes in the recent past.

Copenhagen meeting on climate change

3440. DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Copenhagen meet on climate change could appreciate the stand of India and its domestic commitment; and

(b) if so, which are the countries working together with India in this international meet and co-operate for future commitments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) India's approach to Climate Change is fully anchored in the United Nations Framework on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Kyoto Protocol and the Bali Action Plan. The actions of the Government of India are guided by the principles of equity and the common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities as enshrined in the Convention and the policy laid down In the National Action Plan on Climate Change. Developed countries however often speak of dumping the Kyoto Protocol and that major developing countries should also take on emission reduction commitments. India has taken a position that our voluntary domestic commitments that are not supported by international finance and technology should not be subject to any international Monitoring, Reporting and Verification.

(b) India is an active participant In the G-77 & China. Besides, India along with Brazil, South Africa and China (BASIC Countries) often coordinate their position on various issues of climate change at international negotiations including at Copenhagen.

Environmental clearance to hydro power projects

3441. SHRI D. RAJA:
SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:
Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that environmental clearance has been sought for building about 168 large hydro power projects in the geologically and ecologically fragile, seismically active and culturally-sensitive Brahmaputra river basin; and

(b) if so, the details of these projects and the decision of his Ministry on giving clearance to these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Under the provisions of Environmental Impact Assessment Notification, 2006, Ministry of Environment and Forests has received two hydroelectric projects for environmental clearance which are located in Brahmaputra Basin for environmental clearance. These are Demwe Lower Hydroelectric project (1750 MW) in Lohit District, Arunachal Pradesh and Gongri Hydroelectric project (90 MW) in West Kameng District, Arunachal Pradesh. Both the projects have been considered by the Expert Appraisal Committee at its meeting held on 16.12.2009 and recommended for environmental clearance.

Impact of climate change

3442. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state: